



### ***The American Rescue Plan Provides Relief to Puerto Rico***

Puerto Rico was still recovering from the devastation of Hurricanes Irma and Maria when the COVID-19 pandemic struck. Puerto Rico has been one of the [hardest hit](#) parts of the country, and it continues to battle the virus while suffering rates of [unemployment](#) and [poverty](#) much higher than the rest of the country. Puerto Rico needs significant investment, not just to beat back the virus, but also to help get back on its feet and maintain a health, vibrant, self-sufficient economy.

President Biden recently signed the American Rescue Plan into law – historic legislation that will change the course of the pandemic, deliver immediate relief for hard-hit families and small businesses in Puerto Rico, build a bridge toward economic recovery, and cut the country's child poverty rate in half this year. The American Rescue Plan provides \$1.9 trillion in broad relief across the country, including billions of investments directly in Puerto Rico.

**Mount a national vaccination program, contain COVID-19, and safely reopen schools.** President Biden has a comprehensive plan to deal with this crisis and launch a whole-of-government COVID-19 response that will change the course of the public health crisis. The American Plan includes \$160 billion to support critical measures to contain the virus, including funding for public health programs that will help Puerto Ricans by providing supplies, testing, vaccines, and the public health workforce to slow the spread of COVID-19. It also provides relief to ensure state and local governments can keep serving their residents, and schools can safely serve their students. The American Rescue Plan will provide:

- \$4.3 billion in Fiscal Relief Funding for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and its local governments to mitigate the fiscal effects stemming from COVID-19.
- \$3 billion in education assistance for Puerto Rico to help schools open safely and meet students' needs during the pandemic.
- \$7.5 billion nationally to plan, prepare for, promote, distribute, administer, monitor, and track COVID-19 vaccines.
- \$1 billion nationally to increase vaccine confidence in the U.S.
- \$7.7 billion nationally to establish, expand, and sustain a public health workforce.

**Deliver immediate relief to working families bearing the brunt of this crisis.** Puerto Ricans face some of the highest levels of unemployment in the country and struggle with persistently high poverty rates. The American Rescue Plan will:

- Give working families a \$1,400 per-person direct payment, bringing their total relief payment from this and the December bill to the \$2,000 it should have been from the start.
- Extend the current unemployment insurance benefits and provide a \$300 per month supplement.

- Provide \$2 billion nationally for unemployment insurance modernization effort to increase equitable access to benefits as well as program integrity.
- Provide \$1 billion in supplemental nutrition assistance funding to Puerto Rico and other territories.
- Deliver assistance to families struggling to stay in their homes.
  - \$50 million is allocated to prevent foreclosures in Puerto Rico.
  - \$305 million in emergency rental assistance is available to renters in Puerto Rico and other territories.
- Provide a one-year enhanced Child Tax Credit to residents of Puerto Rico.
  - The credit is \$3,000 per child (\$3,600 per child under 6), is fully refundable, and applies to 17-year-olds (16 is the current age limit).
- Permanently provide the same Child Tax Credit to Puerto Rico families that residents of states receive.
  - Currently, only families with three or more children living in Puerto Rico receive the credit and the formula used generally means a much smaller credit.
- Provide a permanent, approximately \$600 million federal match for expansions to Puerto Rico's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program.
- Enable Puerto Rico to offset the cost of providing tax credits that reimburse half the cost of up to \$16,000 in child and dependent care expenses (\$8,000 maximum credit) for 2021.

**Support small businesses that are struggling in the wake of COVID-19.** Small businesses are the lifeblood of Puerto Rico. The roughly [44,000 small businesses](#) in Puerto Rico make up the vast majority of all business establishments on the island. Small businesses have been hit especially hard by the virus as well as declines in tourism. The American Rescue Plan will:

- Support small business in Puerto Rico through a national \$7.25 billion program administered by the Small Business Administration (SBA) to assist small businesses and nonprofits affected by COVID-19 with a covered loan.
- Help businesses in Puerto Rico devastated by the pandemic through a national \$15 billion SBA program designed to assist small business and nonprofits severely and substantially impacted by COVID-19 with Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs).
- Provide support for restaurants through a national \$28.6 billion Restaurant Revitalization Fund to assist eligible entities with pandemic-related revenue loss.

This American Rescue Plan is just the start of how we address these immediate crises. In the coming weeks, President Biden will lay out his economic recovery plan to invest in America, create millions of additional good-paying jobs, and build back better than before.